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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE British Ornithologists' Union has lost two prominent members during the present year, although both gained their reputations in other fields than ornithology.

Albert Charles Ludwig Gotthelf Günther known the world over as a leader in the science of ichthyology and for twenty years (1875-1895) keeper of Zoology in the British Museum died on February 1, 1914 in his eighty-fourth year. Dr. Günther was born in Württemberg, October 30, 1830, but early in life came to England and became associated with the Museum. While his actual contributions to ornithological literature were few, it was through his initiative and support that the 'Catalogue of Birds' was published and that alone deserves the thanks of every systematic ornithologist. He also originated the Zoological Record and personally edited the first six volumes.

Gerald Edwin Hamilton Barrett-Hamilton, widely known as an authority on mammals although author of ornithological papers as well, died on January 17, 1914, on South Georgia Island in the Antarctic, where he had gone as leader of a British government expedition to investigate the whale and seal fisheries of the island. He was born in England, May 18, 1871, and his loss while still in the prime of life is a sad blow to the study to which he was devoted.

IN the April number of the American Museum Journal there is published a letter from Colonel Theodore Roosevelt relative to his recent South American expedition. He makes a suggestion that the naturalists who accompanied him be permitted to report on the collections that they made and incidentally touches upon a matter that has no doubt confronted many persons who have had to deal with the literature of natural history and which we think demands the serious attention not only of authors but of institutions which are responsible for the fitting out of expeditions and the publication of their results.

Colonel Roosevelt says: "I want to see their work preserved in a volume and not in a collection of pamphlets. Pamphlets, even scientific pamphlets, are almost as ephemeral as newspapers," and he adds in regard to Hudson's 'Argentine Ornithology,' "It has been of the utmost value to us, . . . whereas none of us know of the very existence of the multitude of little pamphlets on Argentine ornithology that were published about the time this work was published. Really the only use that pamphlets serve are as bricks out of which some permanent structure can be made."

Zoologists of course understand the importance of securing as many type specimens as possible to the museum with which they are connected and this as well as the natural desire of the author to describe as many new forms as possible, make it necessary to issue small pamphlets containing brief diagnoses of the new species secured on any expedition. The present day rivalry in the field of exploration moreover, makes it imperative that such publications be issued as rapidly as possible.

The point is however that both the author and the institution responsible for such publications should feel in duty bound to the scientific world to follow up this preliminary work with a comprehensive report on each collection as a whole or upon the results of the entire expedition.

There is apparently an unfortunate feeling on the part of some writers and institutions that having, so to speak, "skimmed off the cream," their responsibilities in the matter are ended. The subsequent student in the same field finds scattered descriptions of new forms but is exasperated by the lack of any general account of the collection as a whole with field notes and other details. What a boon it would be to the ornithologist who is studying the avifauna of Ecuador and upper Amazonia to have a complete report of the Buckley collections, instead of the scattered diagnoses of new species from localities the very position of which it requires hours of search to ascertain.

In North America we still lack a report on the birds and mammals of the recent Mexican Boundary Survey, the Harriman Alaskan Expedition and others. The value and importance of such reports compared to the brief preliminary diagnoses of new species can perhaps be appreciated when we consider the extent of the influence of the zoological reports of the 'Pacific Railroad Surveys,' and the number of persons who are familiar with them, as compared with those who even know of the existence of the preliminary descriptions of new species obtained by the surveys and published in the

'Proceedings' of the Philadelphia Academy. Let us hope that the American institutions responsible for the recent explorations in Africa and South America will see to it that they are commemorated in volumes worthy of the splendid work of the naturalists who accompanied them.

THE work of bird protection goes steadily forward with a constantly increasing majority of the citizens of our country earnestly supporting it. The annual report of the National Association of Audubon Societies and the bimonthly reports in 'Bird-Lore' show the wonderful extension of educational work in the schools, while the splendid work at Meriden, N. H., under the direction of Mr. Ernest Harold Baynes shows what a united community may do in the interests of bird protection, and from hundreds of other towns come inquiries about practical bird boxes and methods of attracting the birds, from persons who had hitherto given them no consideration. Legislative interests center about the National Capital and bird protection won another victory on May 12 when the Senate by a vote of 45 to 17 passed the House appropriation of \$50,000 for the enforcement of the Migratory Bird Law.

The opponents of bird protection are by no means idle however, especially Senator Reed of Missouri who opposed the above appropriation as bitterly as he did the Tariff provision, forbidding the importation of bird plumage for millinery.

The question of the constitutionality of the Migratory Bird Law will finally be passed upon by the U. S. Supreme Court as we learn from a circular issued by Mr. Wm. T. Hornaday of the N. Y. Zoological Society, that a decision rendered in the Federal Court of South Dakota, April 18 last upheld its constitutionality while another rendered in the U. S. District Court of Arkansas on May 27 decided that it was unconstitutional. Scores of able lawyers have offered their services in supporting the law before the Supreme Court including Mr. Frederic R. Coudert, one of the most distinguished members of the American bar.

The law in regard to Reedbirds will we understand be changed to allow shooting on the Delaware meadows in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware during part of the autumn. Unless this bird could be absolutely protected, this seems but logical, since it was hardly fair to permit the shooting in Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina and prohibit it along the Delaware.

The cat as an enemy of birds is receiving well deserved consideration but curiously enough proposed legislation against the felines in Massachusetts has divided the humane organizations. The Fish and Game Protective Association and the Audubon Society are demanding that cats be licensed while the Animal Rescue League and several Cat Societies are opposing such action.

JUST as we go to press we are in receipt of Mr. Harry S. Swarth's 'Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona' published on May 25 as Pacific

Coast Avifauna No. 10. We regret that the delay in distribution compels us to defer a review until the October number of 'The Auk.'

The zoölogical collections which the American Museum of Natural History has received through the generosity of Colonel Roosevelt, from the Roosevelt Expedition to South America, amount to twenty-five hundred birds and four hundred and fifty mammals.

Work was begun by Mr. George K. Cherrie and Leo E. Miller, whom Colonel Roosevelt took with him as representatives of the Museum, in the vicinity of Asuncion, Paraguay, in the early part of November. The next collecting station was in the vicinity of Curumbá. From this point, the expedition proceeded northward through San Luiz de Cáceres to Utiarity and Tapirapoan.

At Utiarity Mr. Anthony Fiala, who had accompanied the expedition as photographer and "chief of commissary," started with Lieutenant Lauriodo Sta. Anna, and six natives, down the Papegaio, Jurena and Tapajoz Rivers to Santarem.

At Tapirapoan, Mr. Miller left the expedition and with Second Lieutenant Joaquim Manuel Vieira de Mello, Euzebio Paulo de Oliveira, and Heinrich Reinisch, representatives of the Brazilian Government, went down the Gy Paraná and Madeira Rivers to Manaos.

On February 27, the main party, consisting of Colonel Roosevelt, Colonel Rondon, Lieutenant Lyra and Doctor Cajazeira, of the Brazilian Army, Kermit Roosevelt, George K. Cherrie and fifteen canoemen, started on what proved to be a perilous voyage down the hitherto unexplored Rio da Dúvida, which was ascertained to flow into the Madeira. The difficulties of transportation were so great that comparatively few specimens were collected by Mr. Cherrie on this trip. Those which he did obtain, however, proved to be of exceptional interest.

Mr. Miller made an important addition to the collection at Calama, at the junction of the Gy Paraná and Madeira, and also at Manaos, which he reached several weeks in advance of Colonel Roosevelt's party.

DOUBLEDAY, Page & Co. have just issued a new edition of their well-known 'Nature Library' printed on thin paper, which makes it possible to condense the whole series into eight handy volumes, without in any way abridging the contents.